



HILL HOUSE SCHOOL

COVID-19 VACCINATION POLICY FOR PUPILS

September 2021

1. Introduction

- 1.1. This COVID-19 Vaccination Policy for Pupils (the "Policy") sets out Hill House School's (the "School") approach to pupil vaccination against the coronavirus (COVID-19). It supplements, but does not replace, other school policies.
- 1.2. The information set out in this Policy is taken from guidance on the NHS, Public Health England and other government websites that are updated frequently. While we will try to keep this Policy up to date the guidance on the NHS, Public Health England and other government websites is regularly changing and being updated so we strongly recommend that parents and pupils familiarise themselves with the relevant NHS, Public Health England and other guidance and check regularly for updates. We will endeavour to issue updates to parents and pupils as required if changes to government guidance affect this Policy.
- 1.3. The Governors have overall responsibility for the effective operation of this Policy but have delegated responsibility for overseeing its implementation to the Headmaster and Bursar. Any proposals or suggestions for change should be reported to the Bursar.

In this Policy, "you" or "parent" means each person who has parental responsibility for a current pupil at the School.

2. Who does the Policy apply to?

- 2.1. This Policy applies to all parents and pupils aged 12 to 15 over attending the School.

3. Background

- 3.1. The coronavirus pandemic continues to have an impact on our lives, and on how we operate as a School.



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3.2. The School understands that there may be parents and/or eligible pupils who are concerned about getting vaccinated. The information provided by the government, the NHS and Public Health England is that the approved vaccines are safe and effective and offer the best protection against COVID-19.

4. What this means for you

4.1. Whilst the NHS would encourage all eligible pupils to get the vaccine if they are able to do so, we recognise that some parents and/or pupils may have concerns about the coronavirus vaccine for a number of reasons.

4.2. We have given consideration to the government vaccination programme as part of our coronavirus risk assessment. The government has not made vaccination mandatory for children and young people attending school, and given this we do not consider it necessary, or appropriate, for us to make it a requirement that any pupil be vaccinated in order to attend the School.

4.3. We therefore do not require any pupil to have the vaccine.

4.4. Any bullying, harassment, intimidation or victimisation of a pupil in relation to the pupil's and/or their parents' vaccination choice will not be tolerated.

5. Proof of Vaccination

5.1. For the moment, we do not intend to ask you to provide information about whether your child will have or has had the vaccine. However, this will be kept under review and may change.

6. Absences for vaccination

6.1. If an eligible pupil is invited to have their vaccine during normal school hours as part of the schools-based vaccination programme, they may take time out of their scheduled classes to attend their vaccination appointment.

6.2. If a pupil has a vaccine appointment during normal school hours off the school premises, for instance if a pupil between the ages of 16 and 18 is having their first or second dose of the vaccine, parents should inform the School as soon as possible of the time and date of any appointment. Parents should, if asked to do so, show proof of the appointment, e.g. the letter from the NHS confirming their child's vaccination appointment or a screenshot of the text message you have received.

6.3. Pupils will not be permitted to leave the school grounds during school hours to attend vaccine appointments without written parental consent.

6.4. If you book a vaccination appointment privately, you should try to arrange for it to take place outside of school hours at the beginning or end of the school day where possible to minimise disruption to your child's education.

7. Consent

7.1. Parental consent will be sought by the local school aged immunisation teams for the schools-based vaccination programme.

7.2. The School will play its part in the schools-based vaccination programme by hosting the vaccination programme and distributing consent forms, letters and information leaflets as directed by authorities. The School is not legally responsible for processing, checking or otherwise administering the consent or vaccination process.

7.3. In circumstances where there is a disagreement between a parent and a pupil in relation to immunisation, a meeting will be held between the parent, the pupil and a clinician. Ultimately, the clinician will determine whether the pupil is competent to make a decision with regard to their own immunisation.

7.4. The School will not be involved in and is not legally responsible for securing consent, assessing Gillick competence or mediating disagreements between a parent and a pupil. This is the responsibility of the school aged immunisation teams.

8. Processing personal data

8.1. The UK Health Security Agency's guidance confirms that all schools' immunisation services are compliant with the UK General Data Protection Regulations (UK GDPR).

8.2. Information relating to a pupil's vaccination is health information, i.e. special category data. The School may need to process such information to record:

8.2.1. Any pupil absence to get the vaccine if not part of the schools-based programme; and

8.2.2. any pupil absence due to side effects of the COVID-19 vaccine.

- 8.3. Any such processing will take place in accordance with the School's Data Protection Policy and Privacy Notice.
- 8.4. Our lawful basis for processing this **special category data under data protection law is to comply with our legal obligations and the substantial public interest.**
- 8.5. The decision to continue to collect this data will be kept under review in light of changing Government guidance and as the vaccination roll-out reaches more people. This will take place in line with reviews of the School's risk assessments. The data will not be held for longer than is necessary and will be securely deleted or destroyed appropriately.
- 8.6. The School cannot give a fixed retention period at this stage, as this will depend on external factors, but it will be reviewed for deletion periodically.
- 8.7. For more information on how we handle parent and pupil personal data (including special category data), please see the School's Privacy Notice. If you have any queries or concerns in this regard, please contact Mrs Karen Wigglesworth (the School's Privacy and Compliance officer).

9. Changes to this Policy

We reserve the right to modify this Policy at any time to adapt to changing circumstances and school needs, consistent with our health and safety and other legal obligations.